



## THE JULY MEETING

### TWO EMMA TOC WRITTLE CALLING

Singer Nora Scott  
broadcasting from  
2MT Writtle on 22  
May 1922.

The UK's first regular,  
licensed sound broad-  
casting station, 2MT  
operated from an ex-  
Army hut at Marconi's  
site in Writtle, near  
Chelmsford, Essex.

Drawing © Nancy Coulson



Those members who visited Sandford Mill concerning the recent International Marconi Day will have found the collection of objects stored there of great interest. The driving force behind this fascinating enterprise is Dr. Geoff Bowles - Keeper of Science and Industry Museum. He has kindly agreed to tell us all about it at our meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. He will outline Chelmsford's unique industrial history and introduce the Chelmsford Museum Service's Science and Industry Project, the aim being to create a display of industrial memorabilia at the old Waterworks site at Sandford Mill.

Guests are always welcome at our club and we feel that this meeting at the Marconi College

may appeal to a wider audience than some of our more specialised technical evenings; all are welcome.

The Museum is holding it's first ever open day on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 10am to 4pm. Why not bring the family along and see this unique collection illustrating Chelmsford's industrial heritage? We guarantee you will find something of interest to see.

The Club will be operating a 'phone station in the Writtle Hut using the Club rig. In addition, there will be a display of early Morse instruments. The Museum has a small collection of Marconi receivers of wartime vintage; one of these will be receiving Morse, displayed on a modern tape reader. Tony G3YTG will, weather permitting, be flying a replica of the original Marconi kite. For more details contact Pat G0SBQ, Brian G3CVI, Geoff G7KLV or Geoff Bowles at the meeting.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 July CLUB MEETING - 'THE MUSEUM' - Dr. G. Bowles.

9 July CHAIRMAN'S GARDEN PARTY - QTH of G8DET.

16 July OPEN DAY, Chelmsford Science/Industrial Museum.

23 July COLCHESTER RADIO & COMPUTER RALLY.

6 Aug. RSGB WOBURN RALLY - Woburn Abbey, Beds.

### RADIO GARDEN PARTY IN DANBURY

John G8DET and his wife Pauline have kindly offered to hold another garden party at their QTH on the top of Danbury Hill on Sunday 9th July from 2.30pm onwards. John requests "if the weather dodgy, please dial his answerphone number, (01245) 226591 to check if the party is ON or OFF".

Tea, soft drinks and Gateau will be provided by our hosts, any contributions of cakes etc., will be most welcome. If you would like to attend, please tell John 'how many' at the July club meeting, directions to the Bowen QTH will be available.

For maximum comfort you may bring your own folding chair.

It is hoped to have GØMWT/P operational both on HF and VHF, lets hope it will be fine, we have been very lucky in the past.

### MEMBERS NEWS - Ela, G6HKM

We are pleased to welcome three new members, they are Tony Gilbey, G3YTG, Colin Merry, G4CDM and Charles Brain, G0GUO.

### COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, in Telford Lodge, you are welcome to join us.

### NATIONAL DF NEWS - Andrew, G4KQE

The National DF events are now well underway, and it is pleasing to report that Chelmsford club members have enjoyed a fair measure of success so far.

The first event was run in March, this was for the G. T. Peck memorial trophy. It is run in accordance with National rules, and is a practice event for the National Qualifying events later in the year. The start was near Maidenhead and the hidden transmitters were near High Wycombe and Reading. The trophy winner was a member of the Mid-Thames club, who organised the event and club members Bill Petchey came in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Andrew Mead 7<sup>th</sup> and Paul Clark 9<sup>th</sup>.

Coincidentally, the first two National Qualifying events also had Silverware attached to them, so in addition to guaranteeing a place in the National Final, the winner also could take away a trophy.

The Banbury event took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, using the Oxford map. Most competitors decided to go for station "B" first, who was located in a wood between a freight railway line and a lake. Much aerial wire kept competitors at the bottom of the cutting by the railway line, but we found a wire going up a slope to the transmitter, so were one of the first to sign in and get away to station "A".

This transmitter was located in a long thin wood on the banks of the young River Thames west of Oxford, about a mile from any road. One of our bearings went right along the river towards the wood but previous experience of getting out of the car too early to run along canals and rivers made us cautious this time, so we drove round the other side of the wood as there looked a more likely spot further on.

What we should have done was to run along the river, because at that point we were 20 minutes ahead of the rest of the field! When we did run across a field to the wood, there were about three other teams also running into the wood. (continued on page 2, column 2)

## CONSTRUCTORS' COMPETITION - by the judges

The aim of this annual event is to promote the home construction of equipment for radio amateur applications. The scene was set with an excellent 'advert' in the June Newsletter using Clip Art to promote the evening.

In today's society of ever increasingly better but complex equipment the areas for successful home brew are being squeezed. In the past a Radio Amateur had to build all his/hers equipment or modify ex military or commercial. With the appearance in the 1970s of Japanese 2m ssb transceivers (Liner 2) and then FM mobiles, this area superseded 'home brew' leaving power units, aerials and tuning/matching. Looking through Rad Com there are now many adverts for different manufacturers of quality equipment covering just about every conceivable aspect (and some I can't see a need for) of Amateur Radio. The soldering iron has now very nearly been replaced by a cheque book! With this as the background the Judges, Geoff Mills G3EDM & John Bowen G8DET were pleased to have 3 items submitted for examination and for the interest of the CARS Members.



Chris, G0IPU submitted a Wind Speed and Direction Indicator for use on his mast. It was constructed in two parts, the upper part was the Direction Indicator made from scrap metal and bits based around a 360 degree 5k ohm potentiometer from a servo motor. The electronics were provided by Andrew, G7TKK and mounted in an aluminium box with a nice meter calibrated in North (N), S, E & W. In the discussion period members suggested that the top disk should be protected from rain/snow with a skirt or an inverted small plastic funnel. The lower part was a 3 part Wind Speed rotor made from scrap metal and shaped to look like a half a ping pong ball (which were originally tried but rejected due to UV deterioration). The unit was calibrated on a car at known speeds (at night on an open stretch of road) and was accurate to 50 mph. In all the cost was £5.00..



Roy, G3PMX submitted a Phosphor Bronze 'Third Hand' to position surface mount components on to a PCB prior to soldering. Roy explained that he had ordered a Maplin Electronic Notebook which had a level 3 project rating - the difficulty for the CARS Members was to see the components let alone solder them!. Roy said that Maplin suggested holding the component with pliers in one hand and soldering with the other!. The 'Third Hand' was a stiff wire beautifully mounted from a post on a wooden plinth which provided pressure on the component so freeing both hands and preventing the chance of it ending up in the vacuum cleaner. The Notebook recorded 16 seconds of good quality audio and was demonstrated to the audience.



Andrew, G4KQE produced a research DF set; traditionally this model of DF Set would have used a TAD100 but experience showed that with the screened ferrite aerial there was a lack of sensitivity which is needed at the start of the DF competition. To overcome this a new PCB was produced to mount a TCA 440 and used pre-wound TOKO coils. Many changes were made but sensitivity was still not as good as was required. However, using a loop aerial provided additional gain - further development would be carried out. In the discussion period it was suggested that computer ribbon cable could be used for the loop aerial to provide a robust item.

All the prize winners were presented with a personalised Certificate produced by Ela, G6HKM; the borders of which were in colour requiring 98 separate operations on her lap-top computer to obtain the desired effect - thank you Ela.

After the raffle John the Chairman played a tape which told the story of a 79 year old musician who left his saxophone behind in a brown leather case on the back seat of a British Army RASC Staff Car 1 mile from Dunkirk Beach on 27<sup>th</sup> May in 1941. The question being, what happened to it? Was it blown up, taken back to England or did it find its way into a French or German dance band? Ken Pickford does not really want it back but would like to know what happened to it. Can anyone help?.

## NATIONAL DF NEWS (continued from page 1)

We were all searching at the top of the wood and working our way down but Mike Hawkins had seen us all go into the top of the wood and decided that the only way he could win was to go straight to the bottom of the wood in the hope that the transmitter was at that end. Mike's gamble paid off because at 1602 he was the first to find his second station and so win the event, the Banbury Shield and a place in the National Final in September.

Chelmsford was well represented that day, as in addition to Mike Hawkins coming first, Andrew Mead, Andy Collett, Bill Petchey, and Dick Brocks all came in the top half of the competitors.

The Mid-Thames event took us to the Aldershot/Fleet area at the end of April and again our sights were set on the Mid-Thames trophy, as this has been won by both Dick Brocks and myself in recent years and we were keen to keep it in this part of the country.

Station "A" was relatively straightforward to find in a wood in the village of Greywell near Fleet and we found ourselves in a short convoy of cars heading South for station "B". Somewhere enroute, the station came on, and the other cars in the convoy pulled over to take bearings. We carried on because we already had sufficient bearings to identify approximately where the transmitter was. The difficulty was knowing exactly where he was because the area was very green and he could have been in any one of three woods. However, as we drove closer, it was obvious from our bearing that he was on Noar Hill, near Empshott, the only problem now was how to find a way in. We found another competitor's car parked at the side of the road, so we started to run into the wood. Luckily, the transmitter came on, but was not strong enough to give us confidence to carry on. Back to the car and we drove to another footpath into the wood, where we found the organiser who said we were first on site!

Fired with that extra incentive, we ran up the hill into the wood, following the signal until we found masses of wire strung over bushes, and lots of other competitors! One thin wire went down a hill to some thick bushes at the bottom, so I decided to investigate. Then the transmitter came on and the DF Set said back up the hill. As I came up the hill, I saw everyone frantically running around and my set was taking me towards a big tree. Running over to the tree I saw a couple of people going up it, and realised that the station was about ten feet off the ground. Years of climbing trees as a boy now paid off as I was soon up there handing in my ticket. By now, everyone else on site had realised where the transmitter was, so there was mayhem around the tree, with everyone frantically trying to sign in.

I was disappointed not to have won the event but very pleased that Mike Hawkins had won again, so at least the Mid-Thames Trophy is not far away, in Sudbury! We again did very well as a club, with the top four places going to Chelmsford men. This also meant that the next two places in the National Final were allocated to Andy Collett, who came in second, and Andrew Mead who came in fourth, Mike Hawkins already having qualified and Mike Williams is part of Dick Brocks' team, Dick of course being guaranteed a place in the final as he won it last year.

So there we are, just two qualifying events gone, and already four Chelmsford members lined up for the Final.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

Once again the city (village) desk is desperately short of newsletter material. With 80 members on our circulation list, there must be some activity news, new equipment reviews, hints and tips, etc. etc. worth reporting. Short items of 100-200 words are always welcome for gap fillers.

Next month we will report our success in obtaining QSL cards for the club station G0MWT and how you can obtain one by working (or hearing) the station either on HF or VHF.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,  
G3PMX & G6HKM

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